

January 2015

DSDHH Newsletter



IN THIS ISSUE:

- **DIRECTOR'S DISCUSSION**
- **DEAF DEVELOPMENTS**
- **CASE MANAGEMENT CORNER**
- **EMPLOYMENT ENJOYMENT**
- **HARD OF HEARING HAPPENINGS**
- **INTERPRETER INTERACTION**
- **PROGRAM PROGRESS**
- **TECHNOLOGY TOYS**
- **SUNNYSIDE ST. GEORGE**



20th Year

Robert G Sanderson Community Center
of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
5709 South 1500 West Taylorsville, UT 84123-5217

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Director's Discussion

By Marilyn Call

PRIORITIES FOR 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Part 1

The Div. of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH) is asking the legislature for a budget increase this coming year of \$117,950. We will need many people sending letters, email or calling legislators to be successful in obtaining this money. Of the \$117,690, \$67,950 is for a full-time position to plan classes, workshops and activities for Deaf ASL users at the Sanderson Center. The remaining \$50,000 is being requested to keep the Hard of Hearing outreach to rural areas program going. Money for this program was obtained two years ago but it was only allocated for one year to see if the program would be successful. This year with proven success we are asking for ongoing funds.

When we are asking for a budget increase there are two important committees of state senators and representatives that we interact with. The first committee that hears our budget request is the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee. The second is the Executive Appropriations Committee. As soon as the new committees are assigned I will have links posted on our websites.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing advocates should also be aware of a Bill being sponsored by Rep. Gage Froerer. The intent of this Bill is to require audiologists and hearing aid dispensers to explain what a telecoil is and how it can be used before they purchase a hearing aid. Many newer hearing aids are sold with blue tooth and a device that is worn around the neck called a streamer. With a streamer an individual can hear phone calls or listen to music with the sound going directly to the hearing aids. Since blue tooth is more modern than hearing aids, people think telecoil is not needed anymore. Blue tooth is not universal. It works only with the hearing aids you have purchased. It's very good for individual listening purposes. Hard of Hearing people still need an activated telecoil if they want to connect to public venues that have loops or neck loops that connect to the offered assistive listening devices. Nice, strong telecoils are essential if you want to stay connected to public activities. The majority of hearing aids come with built-in telecoil, but they are not always activated and few people are aware of the many ways they extend the ways hearing aids can be used. I love mine!

It is also possible that a Bill will be proposed to try to move USOR to a different department of government than USOR.

Part 2

You can make a difference..... Advocacy is the Key! There are two kinds of Advocacy that are important when you are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. The first kind is Personal Advocacy... such as letting people know your needs for you to understand what is being said at School, Church, or any public

situation. The second kind is being and advocate for changing systems such as Governments. DSDHH needs more people to be involved in this second kind of advocacy...Especially with advocacy with the State of Utah legislature.

It should be helpful and motivating to think back fifty years ago. What was it like to be deaf in the 1940's and fifties. At that time there were no paid interpreters. There was no Vocational Rehabilitation services for Deaf/ HH. The TTY's took up half of the kitchen and not all people had them. There was no relay services, No VP's, no smart phone for texting and no captioned TV. And of course there was no Sanderson community Center or southern Utah program.

How do you think all of the services we enjoy today came to be? Do you think some legislator or vice president spent their time and energy thinking of ways to help deaf people? Noooooo..... It was because Deaf people of those times became great advocates for their needs so they could more fully participate in the world.

We have many more opportunities today. So... is it fine to become lethargic and think... oh someone else will do the advocacy. I don't need to get involved. The truth is... that now most Deaf/Hard of hearing people don't get involved. You are needed to do a few simple things to keep and improve services at DSDHH. Yes, You will be an advocate if you

1. Look at the website <http://le.utah.gov/Documents/find.htm> to learn which state Representative and state Senator represent you in the legislature. Get to know some of the names of the leadership and committee members. These are the people that make the decisions that affect Utahns.
2. Make sure your contact information is on DSDHH's email blast list so you will receive information about needed actions. Contact Jenefer Reudter, jreudter@utah.gov, to be added to the list. I will send out sample messages that you can copy and send to your legislators
3. DSDHH is creating a text blast system for emergency situations and for legislative action needed when the need for Advocacy is immediate. Contact Ron Nelson, ronnelson@utah.gov, to put your name and text number on that list.
4. Come to the capitol for in-person training during the legislative session. Each Friday, 9:30-Noon, Marilyn Call will train individuals how to lobby. Email Marilyn to let her know which Friday you want to come mcall@utah.gov
5. Send emails, letters and/or make phone calls when email or text blast notifications are sent. These really do make a difference especially if you live in the district of the committee members.

Gratitude Wall



By Jenefer Reudter

The Sanderson Community Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing recently displayed a “Gratitude Wall” during the month of November. Visitors to the Sanderson Community Center were able to write down what they are grateful for. While many of us find ourselves focusing on gratitude during the month of November and during the Thanksgiving holidays, we really should be grateful year round for the things that we have in life. Take a challenge and daily express your gratitude to your family, friends and those who bring you happiness.

There were many common items that visitors mentioned on the Gratitude Wall. Some of the common things listed were: Family, Friends, The Sanderson Community Center; Technology; Health; feeling a part of a community; and Home. It was fun to see the various things that were written and to see the excitement of the visitors when they added their comments to the Gratitude Wall.

While there are many items that were listed on the Gratitude Wall

And there is no top reason to be grateful that is the same for everyone, I wanted to take a moment to focus on one specifically. Here in the state of Utah, we are blessed to have the Sanderson Community Center! The Sanderson Community Center is “one of a kind” in that there are many different types of services offered at the Sanderson Center and not many states even have a center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We are even more fortunate to be able to have an extension of the Sanderson Community Center located in St. George! Together, both locations have become “2nd homes” for many members of the community in being able to provide a safe environment for all who visit to enjoy and socialize with others.

Thank you for being a part of a great community and allowing us to serve you! We, as a team of staff, enjoy being able to work at the Sanderson Community Center and to be able to work in a great community. In short, we are grateful for EACH OF YOU!!

HIND FAMILY HOLIDAY APPRECIATION

The children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the late Spencer and Gladys Hind Family recently hosted the annual Children’s Holiday Event on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at the Sanderson Community Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. There was a feeling of magic in the air as a balloon artist who could make almost anything out of balloons entertained the children! The children were able to visit with a signing Santa Claus and receive a treat bag donated by the Hind Family as well as a present donated by a UVU Student, Heidi Garner and her daughter, Amber Garner. The Hind Family provided snacks that resembled Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer along with marshmallows and pretzels that the children could make into their own creative snowflakes. The children also made and decorated trees made from Popsicle sticks with decorations of their own choosing! There were many who attended this great event! The Hind Family has carried on this annual Children’s Holiday event for a number of years. The Sanderson Community Center staff expresses appreciation for the Hind Family and their extended family for hosting such a wonderful event! Hands waving high for a fantastic time for all!



CASE MANAGEMENT CORNER



RESOURCE OF THE MONTH:

Home Energy Assistance Target (HEAT) Program:

– Available from November 1st through April 30th –

Provides assistance with winter home heating and year round energy crisis for eligible low income households

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Total household income is at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level
2. The household is responsible for paying home energy costs.
3. The household contains at least one US citizen or qualified non-citizen.

Can apply online, go to your local HEAT Program office, or schedule an appointment with one of our case managers to assist you with filling out the application.

Go to: <http://jobs.utah.gov/housing/seal/heat.html>

DSDHH Case Management Team:

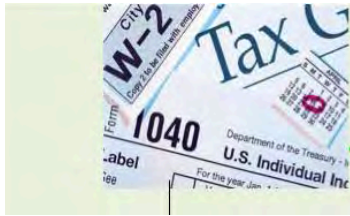
Annette Stewart: ajstewart@utah.gov - 801.657.5226 VP/ 801.2663.4892 V

Stephen Persinger: spersinger@utah.gov - 801.657.5204 VP

Cheri Mills: cmills@utah.gov - 801-657-5227 VP 801.263.4885 V

Grant Pemberton (So. Utah): gpemberton@utah.gov - 435.216.9306 VP
435.673.8974 V

Diego Acosta (Southern Utah): dacosta@utah.gov - 435.767.0113 VP



Announcement by Jorie Hill

VITA Tax Preparation Assistance

Volunteer Individual Tax Assistance (VITA): The Sanderson Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service's VITA tax program coordinated by CAPUtah will be offering free tax preparation assistance for individuals who earn less than \$60,000 per year in American Sign Language or voice again this year. Dates will be announced via email blast, Facebook, UAD Announce, HLAA SLC chapter and possibly the January newsletter. Dates will most likely be available in ASL on Friday mornings, and in voice on Friday afternoons, beginning sometime in February through April. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Taxpayers can file their taxes for free on their own: Taxpayers can also file their own tax return online for FREE! VITA, Earn It Keep It Save It and the IRS are working together to promote this new tax filing option called Facilitated Self Assistance (FSA). Taxpayers just need to go to UtahTaxHelp.org to file.

Earn it. Keep it. Save it. Is a coalition of statewide partners from the public, private and non-profit sectors and provides free tax preparation and filing assistance for people who make \$60,000 or less and want to prepare their own federal and state tax return, FOR FREE, with limited assistance. To get started, taxpayers need basic computer skills, internet access, an email address, a valid Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), and tax documentation. Tax filing software is provided by MyFreeTaxes. To file your federal and state tax return for FREE go to www.UtahTaxHelp.org.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS:

If you are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or know ASL, we would be thrilled if you would volunteer your time to help individuals complete their tax documents this year. Training is available on-line. If you would like further information or are interested in serving as a tax preparer or greeter, please contact Jorie Hill at jrhill@utah.gov, 801-263-4886 (v), or 801-657-5210 (vp).

Deaf Developments!

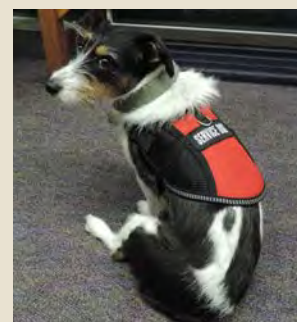


CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

It is a recreational and social program developed for people with multiple disabilities and some degree of hearing loss. There will be **Scrapbooking Day** at the center on January 17, 2014 from 10am to 2:30pm. We will learn how to make a scrapbook for Circle of Friends. Come join us for fun and productive gatherings! We'll share tips, motivate and inspire one another.

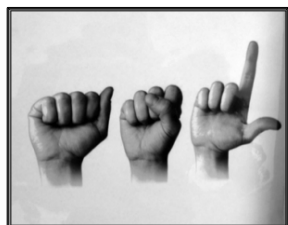
DOG SERVICE TRAINING

The Sanderson Center offers a Service Dog Training course at a very affordable price. The **Basic Obedience** class will begin on January 6, 2015 at 6:30pm. The class is an eight-week course that will give you the knowledge and technique to establish basic obedience with your dog. We will continue to **Intermediate** course and then to **Advanced** course. Each level holds a stock for eight week. The course is held once a week, for about one hour and a half per session.



ASL CLASSES

The Sanderson Community Center offers American Sign Language lessons for all levels: *basic, intermediate, and advanced*. The classes will begin on January 13, 2015 at different time slots. The **basic level** uses simple vocabulary at a fairly slow pace and is required the purchase of a \$20 book. The **intermediate level** continues to develop the basic of the ASL language and the building of both expressive and receptive vocabulary whereas the **advanced level** is much more sophisticated vocabulary at a normal rate and covers a cultural perspective and historical background of the Deaf community. The **intermediate & advanced** levels are FREE and do not need a purchased book.



VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

The Winter CO-Ed Volleyball League is back!! -- Games are now on **SATURDAYS!** Starting January 10, 2015.

Tournament will be on **SATURDAY, March 28, 2015 starting at 8am.**

The games are held at Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Taylorsville, Utah.

First game will be at 5pm and goes on until 9pm

When: Saturdays

01/10/15	02/07/15	03/07/15
01/17/15	02/21/15	03/14/15
01/24/15	02/28/15	03/28/15 - Tournament

Registration **STARTS** January 10, 2015 at 4pm!!

FEES:

Early bird – Now until January 2nd - \$50

Regular – January 3rd – January 10th - \$60

Last minute – After January 10th - \$70

Please come join us for **FUN!**



2015 Sewing Potpourri class schedule

January 3, 2015 – 9am to 4pm (we will teach how to make pillowcase)

February 7, 2015 – 9am to 4pm (learn how to make denim Tic-Tac-Toe)

March 7, 2015 – 9am to 4pm

No class in April

May 2, 2015 – 9am to 6pm

June 6, 2015 – 9am to 6pm

No class in July

August 1, 2015 – 9am to 6pm

September 5, 2015 – 9am to 6pm

No class in October

November 7, 2015 – 9am to 4pm

December 5, 2015 with Potluck luncheon – 9am to 4pm

Classes are held at Sanderson Center, 5709 South 1500 West, Taylorsville
Bring Brown Bag lunch and sealable drinks

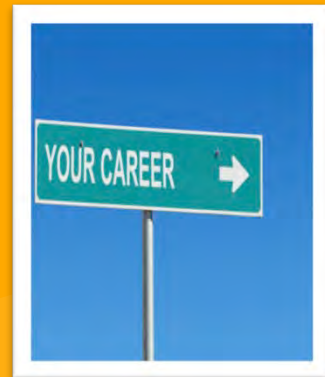
During the November 2014 Bazaar, many people asked about joining our Sewing Potpourri classes. Here are some of the responses to their questions:

1. Each class is a “theme” class that you can learn how to put in a zipper or how to make button holes or make jean table mats, etc.
2. UFO (Un-Finished Object) will still be offered at every class. Please let Kathleen know what you need help with so we can bring the right instructions and/or supplies.
3. Hearing people are welcome to join us and practice signing ASL and sew with us.
4. We want your feedback of what YOU want to learn. If you have a favorite pattern, bring it to class.

Any questions, contact Kathleen Peebler kjpeebl@comcast.net – VP 801-938-5155.



EMPLOYMENT Enjoyment



TIP OF THE MONTH:

PHRASES NOT TO PUT ON YOUR RESUME

When you create your resume, please avoid the following words and phrases to avoid using.

- **Hard Worker-** this is a very general and vague phrase. Focus on specific skills, results and accomplishments instead. Employers like to see data-based information, not general statements.
- **Detail-oriented-** Everyone pays attention to details. Think of something unique about yourself that you can bring to the business.
- **Salary negotiable-** Everyone knows salary is negotiable so don't waste space on your resume on this.
- **References Available Upon Request-** Everyone knows that they can ask you for references so again, don't waste space on your resume on this.
- **Objective-** Employers prefer to see a "Career Summary" or "Profile" since this will describe your background, achievements and what you have to offer to the employer.

Need help finding a job?

**Having problems at your job
and need advice?**

Contact me and I can help.

Contact Information:

PAMELA MOWER

Statewide Employment Specialist

Email- pmower@utah.gov

VP- 801-657-5223

Tuesdays: Ogden VR office

M, W, TR and Fri: Taylorsville Deaf
Center office

TBA: Provo

- **Team Player-** Most jobs requires working with others and anyone can say they are a team player. It's best to talk about the kinds of teams you worked on and how you succeeded.

Good luck on your job search!

HARD OF HEARING HAPPENINGS

by Robin Traveller

Why People Won't Wear Hearing Aids?

Mark Ross, Ph.D. is a consultant for Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Hearing Enhancement (RERC-HE) and has written many articles for Hearing Loss Magazine. Recently I read an article where he wrote, "All of us have had the experience of suggesting to a friend or relative that he or she get a hearing aid, only to be told that it was not necessary since he/she could "hear alright"--this comment being made during the course of a conversation in which shouting was the only way to communicate. It is a frustrating experience for all concerned, much more so for the person with the hearing loss. Why, then, do people react this way so frequently? Why is it that only about twenty percent of potential adult hearing aid candidates actually use one? How clear can the evidence of a hearing loss be so continually and, sometimes, so argumentatively denied by affected persons?"

Here are some of the most common reasons for hard of hearing adults who don't want hearing aid help:

Association with Age – As people get older, they begin to lose some of their sensory capability. One of the stereotypes of older people portrays them as having difficulty hearing, perhaps with their hands behind their ears, saying "Eh?" in a high-pitched, whining voice. A hearing loss doesn't happen because we have been "bad" people or guilty of abusing our bodies in any way. Just think about if you really have to constantly ask people to repeat themselves doesn't make you seem older?

Difficulty Adapting – Once a hard of hearing person get a new hearing aid, they feel it's too complicated to learn like "I can't be bothered to learn about telecoil and loop technology or how can I adjust my programs in my hearing aids." We can reflect back when the remote control for our TV seemed complicated?

Cosmetics – Manufacturers of hearing aids are aware that hard of hearing people are choosing what hearing aid styles are preferred. Even the smaller hearing aids are not necessarily better. What is more important is get the quality of hearing and understanding people in a better way. There's no need to hide your hearing aids in your drawers or take them off when you're in a crowd. Would you be worried about someone seeing your glasses?

Cost – Many health insurance do not cover hearing aids.



For some people on a fixed income, this is a real concern. The State of Utah does not have hearing aid tax credit but all hearing aids and batteries are IRS tax deductible. You can contribute a monthly deposit in a special savings account that you won't touch to buy your hearing aids in the future.

Bad Experiences – you may have heard from friends that hearing aids just don't work. It's due to a poor evaluation and fitting that can be easily fixed. Once you lose some hearing over time, your hearing will not go back to the way it used to be. Hearing aids DO help!

There's nothing to be embarrassed about wearing hearing aids and/or cochlear implant. They will make your life easier! Be proud to tell people that you are unique. Becoming a strong advocate to your hearing loss, don't be afraid to tell people your first communication rule is to look at me first before speaking so you won't miss a word.

Sanderson Center offers Hearing Aid 101 class periodically. If you're interested in joining, contact Robin Traveller. Email: rtraveller@utah.gov

LIVING WITH HEARING LOSS

Learn to reduce and prevent communication problems that stem from hearing loss in this 6 week course.

When: Tuesdays Jan. 13 - Feb. 24, 2015
10:00 am to 11:30 am

Where: The MillCreek Senior Center
2266 Evergreen Ave, Salt Lake City,
Utah

Contact: Judy Madsen 385-468-3305



DO YOUR EARS RING?



Come to this 4 week class to understand cycles & causes of tinnitus. Learn a variety of coping skills and different treatments available.

When: Thursdays Jan. 8 - Feb. 5, 2015
2:00-3:30pm

Where: Sanderson Community Center of the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
5709 South 1500 West, Taylorsville, UT

Contact: Chelle George 801-313-6813

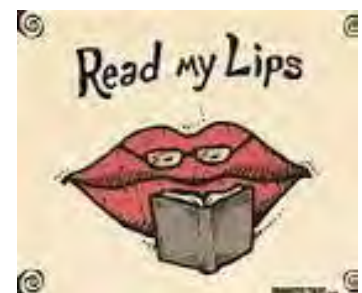
SPEECHREADING CAN ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HEARING AIDS

Learn the basics of speechreading, formally called lip-reading.

When: Mondays, Feb. 2 - April 6, 2015
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Where: Sanderson Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Contact: Chelle George 801-313-6813



If ADA accommodations are needed, please request with the contact person of each class

LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE & BUILD YOUR BRAIN POWER!

This 8 week class teaches Beginning CASE (Conceptually Accurate Signed English) - sign language in English order. This is a slow paced class for beginners.

When: Thursdays Jan. 8 - Feb. 26, 2015

9:30-11:30am

Where: Mount Olympus Senior Center
1535 E. Murray-Holladay, Murray, UT

Contact: Kaylie Sager 385-468-3130



"Hello"



"Good Bye"



"Yes"



"No"



"Thanks"



"You're Welcome"



"Please"



"Sorry"

ANOTHER BEGINNING CASE CLASS OFFERED

When: Tuesday's Jan. 13-March 3, 2015 from 6-8pm

Where: Sanderson Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
5709 South 1500 West, Taylorsville, UT

Contact: Robin Traveller - rtraveller@utah.gov

TAKEN BEGINNING CASE CLASSES AND READY TO ADVANCE?

Conversational 8 week Advanced CASE class.

When: Tuesdays, Jan. 13 - March 3, 2015 from
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Where: Sanderson Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Contact: Robin Traveller - rtraveller@utah.gov

A Success Story

We enjoy our jobs so much!! Here is one example
from SLC Hard of Hearing Assistant - Chelle Wyatt



I remember an older couple came to the Sanderson center at 4:00pm on a Monday evening when we close at 5:00pm. I forget how they heard about us, however, both he and his wife were so happy to have found the Sanderson Center. He worked for the railroad all his life retiring from there and he figures he lost his hearing doing that too. "They didn't worry about ear protection back then," he said. I explained high frequency hearing loss, showed him a couple of AIDs and we talked about the variety of classes the center offered - telecoils, you name it. They were hungry for information. They stayed for an hour as we discussed all options. They both expressed their gratitude the whole time. The center was closing and he wanted to stay and keep talking to someone about hearing loss. "All along, this place was available and I didn't know." His wife pulled him, with me following, out of the demo room about 15 minutes after closing, still talking. That night I went home on a natural high and didn't come down for hours. It's so nice to help people and to show them there's a world of options out there for all of us.

INTERPRETER INTERACTION

2014 is coming to an end and this has been an eventful year for the Utah Interpreter program. Changes were made in the law requiring those who are providing interpreting services are now required to be certified/recognized by the state of Utah. This was a big change since some providing interpreting services were able to get around the law due to a loophole in the law. Now if you are providing interpreting services you must be certified.

Dawn Duran was awarded interpreter of the year through UTRID, and the Directors award through DSDHH. Hands are waving for Dawn.

Several new interpreter policy changes came into effect that will assure that those working in educational K-12 settings have great skills. Interpreters who hold Professional Level certification, once they finish their current cycle they are in, will now have four years to get the required continued education hours (CEH's). There are many new changes, and will be more changes to the policy for 2015.

Interpreter Certification Advancement Network (ICAN) has been a very successful program to assist

those who hold Novice Level certification or EIPA 3.9 or below in language development and to improve their interpreting skills. ICAN is training Deaf Interpreters to prepare and take the national test to become certified as a Deaf Interpreter.

New and updated filming is currently happening for those taking the state certification test. With this we will be able to take advantage of and use current technology.

Hundreds of hours of evaluation of skills to assure those providing interpreting services are qualified. I know some interpreters become frustrated since the state standard is so difficult. We want to assure when an interpreter is hired they have the required skills.

The Knowledge exam is now an online exam. The candidates now get immediate results rather than waiting a week.

We have many goals to tackle in 2015. We plan to clarify the grievance process for complaints; we want to make this Deaf friendly. We will be dealing with the VRI concerns that have now come to the front for DSDHH. There is still much work to do and we are looking forward to having a great 2015.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER!

Hi my name is Michelle Draper. I am a Utah native. I have been working professionally as an interpreter since 2002. I have provided interpreting services in a variety of settings including post-secondary, video relay, medical, vocational rehabilitation, and legal. I hold a Master's degree from the University of North Florida in Interpreting Pedagogy. I have also been an interpreter educator and mentor for over 7 years. However, my greatest accomplishment is being a wife and mother of three. Currently I am a staff interpreter for the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation and also provide mentoring for the ICAN (Interpreter Certification



Advancement Network) program and serve on the UIP testing committee. The best thing about my job is all the time I get to spend working with the people in the community. I love it here!

PROGRAM PROGRESS

Joene Nicolaisen, Program Director

In November 2014, the Sanderson Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing hosted a strategic plan event to help us develop a plan for providing future services and programs. At the event we had about 35 people participating. The group consisted of the center's staff, professionals, parents and community members. I am excited to share with you the goals that were developed from the strategic plan. At the next Advisory Council meeting, the council members will be asked to approve the plan and goals. Once approved, we will be forming committees to put the goals into action. I will submit occasional updates on the progress of the goals.

During the strategic plan event, there were many wonderful ideas. We wish we could accomplish all of them! As a team we were able to prioritize these ideas to create three main goal areas from which we will develop working groups who will work towards achieving the goals. Please take a look at the summary of goals and watch for more updates in the future! Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, comments or concerns. My email is: jfnicolaisen@utah.gov

GOAL #1 = TECHNOLOGY

- Website: Re-design the website to make it more user friendly
- Vlogs: Create accessible Video Logs (VLOGS) to go with announcements and events
- Develop Live Streaming/Webinars/E-learning (classes through the internet)
- Public Relations (PR): "Spread-the Word" about services to other agencies and parents
- Create accessible E-Applications (Apps) for Event notifications, Breaking News and Emergency notifications

GOAL #2 = COMMUNITY NEEDS & SERVICES

- Provide a variety of workshops events, preferably taught by members of the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing community and target all audiences (deaf-blind, various age groups, etc.)
- Improve transportation and parking services to the Sanderson Center, and St. George
- Improve transportation and parking services to the Sanderson Center, and St. George
- Expand regular services to more heavily populated areas that are currently underserved
- Explore ways to minimize isolation among Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing
- Increase community awareness of our services and programs of DSDHH, SCCDHH and SUDHHP

GOAL #3 = PARENT SUPPORT

- Provide parents with children who have hearing loss with equitable information for communication options (oral, signing, etc.)
- Develop more programs for families with Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind children

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!



I am the Deaf Program Specialist here at the deaf center. I organize a variety of workshops, community events, and classes at the center. That's pretty exciting for me because I love planning. And I also get to meet new people constantly. I was born and raised in the land of cheese, brats, and beer - otherwise as known as Wisconsin. I graduated from Gallaudet University in 2004. I joined the Peace Corps and was stationed as a Deaf educator in Kenya for two years. There's one thing you MUST know about me - I am truly a dog person. I love reading, sewing, socializing, and watching British shows like Doctor Who and Downton Abbey. And I really enjoy the challenges of long-distance running. I really look forward to working with people that care about the community and doing a good job."



My name is Stephen Persinger and I am the new case manager at the Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I am replacing Joene Nicolaisen. Joene has a new job title as Program Director.

I was born hearing and at 9 months old, I became sick with meningitis and lost my hearing. I'm now happily deaf! I'm the only deaf person in my family and am fortunate that they learned some sign. I was born and raised 14 years in Iowa then my family relocated to Kansas City, MO since my dad got a better job there. After high school, I went to Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) for my Bachelor of Sciences in Criminal Justice. During my college years, I had some fun summers. My first summer, I went to work as a lab chemist at Tufts University in Boston. Second summer, I worked in Alaska fishing for salmon. Third summer, I studied abroad in France and Italy learning their culture and sign languages (LSF and LIS). Unfortunately I had to stay in Rochester for my last summer and take some summer classes. In January, I got married to my beautiful wife, Mercy Persinger. I enjoy snowboarding and look forward to many new adventures here in Utah. If you would like to make an appointment for case management services, please contact me through VP at 801-657-5204 or email: spersinger@utah.gov. Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime! I look forward to working with you.

TECHNOLOGY TOYS

by Ron Nelson



DSDHH has many technology toys for community use!

- 4 desktop computers (1 in the lobby and 3 in Classroom A) with non-color printers.
- PC laptops and projectors and screens for use in any room
- 3 Sorenson VideoPhone booths
- Portable Sorenson VP with TV
- Tandberg Camera and Sorenson VP with two 40" TVs in the Conference room
- 50" TV in the Lounge with a VHS/DVD player and channels 2/4/5/7/11/13
- Movie screen and movie-type projector in the gym
- VHS/DVD player, projector and large screen with auditorium seating in the Lecture Hall
- Loops systems with microphones at the front desk, Demo Lab and Classrooms B/C



There is a large TV in the lobby that is showing videos 24/7. The videos are usually signed or captioned. We screen the videos carefully because we want you to enjoy watching them. If you have time to kill or are waiting for someone, take a comfortable seat, watch TV and cast all your cares away for a few minutes.



The Demo Lab is a MUST-SEE on your next visit! There is an excellent variety of alerting devices such as flashing lights or vibrators for doorbell/phone/VP/fire/smoke/alarm clock signals. There are a good number of different phones with large buttons/volume controls/flashing lights and even Listening Systems to watch TV and hear it clearly through the noise. Best of all, you can borrow any technology for a month and see if it works for you. The motto is "Try Before You Buy." Please contact us for an appointment so we can make sure someone will be there to assist you.

Ever wish you could watch your tiny smartphone display or an iPad on a large TV or connect it to a projector? You can! It works for any smartphone or an iPad. I can give you a demo, just let me know by emailing me at: ronnelson@utah.gov to set up an appointment!



We have a touch screen computer too in the lobby. Most of the time it shows a calendar of events. We invite you to "touch" it and surf the Internet or check your emails or play games or whatever you like to do. Shhhh...don't tell anyone I said that.





Sunny Side St. George

Sunny Side of Utah at Southern Utah Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program has been having some great events. December 9th, we had our American Sign Language (ASL) Annual Holiday Social with the whole community, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, ASL students, ASL teachers, ASL Interpreters, and families. This event allows our community to become whole. We play games, watched ASL Comedy from YouTube, socialize, catch up with old friends and make new friends. Everyone brought holiday goodies that filled up two long tables, they were yummy! We want to thank all of those who contributed, and made this event fun. Everyone looks forward to next year events.



We have started a series of workshop that will happen 4 times a year. "Feel Good Workshop" where we discuss various topics that boost our self-esteem and learn positive habits. We offered "Four Agreements" and "What's My True Nature" presented in ASL by Melissa Julien and Grant Pemberton. The communities have been very grateful for these workshops and are asking for more, so we are planning

more for 2015, keep an eye out for our advertisement that says "Feel Good Workshop" with new topics.

Starting January we will begin another workshop series on Politics. The workshop will offer a neutral and basic understanding of government; how to vote; why to vote; and much more. Every 3 months we will have various presenters co-hosting with Larry Laskowski on understanding politics presented in our ASL language. We are looking forward to these workshops to prepare ourselves for the next election

We are grateful for the events that have been happening in 2014, we are looking forward for a new approach of 2015 with new ideas, and traditional annual events. What we are planning for these upcoming year are: Debt Management workshop, The Truth about Hearing Service dogs' workshop, Indian Culture Drum circle, ASL Campout, Annual Southern Utah Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program (SUDHHP) picnic, continued Politics and Feel Good workshop series, and of course our ASL classes.

The communities here are close and helpful, we appreciate them so much and the staff of SUDHHP is a great team. There is much love in the Sunny Side of Utah!



(Picture: Wendy Jensen, Interpreter, Grant Pemberton, Director, Meadow Lisonbee, Interpreter Manager, Diego Acosta, Case Manager, Meredith Poole, Office Manager, Tiffan Harding, Interpreter, Peggy Thomson, Hard of Hearing Specialist)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER!



Greetings readers! My name is Diego Acosta. I am a case manager at Southern Utah Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program. I grew up in New Jersey a Uruguay (small nation in the South America born by Brazil and Argentina). I graduated from NTID (National Technical Institute for the Deaf) with an Associate degree in Applied Computer Technology. Then moved to Orem, UT where I graduated from Utah Valley State College (now Utah Valley University) with a Bachelor degree in Behavioral Science with a Social Work emphasis. I am excited to have this job where I have an opportunity to make a difference in the Deaf community and be able to support clients with their daily issues. I am married to my beautiful wife Diane Acosta and we have two awesome children we love to watch documentaries, root for Uruguay national soccer team, and learn new things.

Politics Series #1

January 13, 2015 3:30-5pm
Everything you should know about Politics
Presented in ASL

RSVP meredithwinn@utah.gov or 435-216-9305(vp)

Free Legal Advice

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month. 3-5pm

Interpreters will be provided.

When: January 14, 2014

Time: 3-5p

Where: SUDHHP center



APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

Please contact

Diego Acosta by Jan 9th

vp: 435-767-0113

dacosta@utah.gov

FREE ASL CLASSES at Sunny Side of Utah

St. George Location

Tuesday's Schedule:

Beginning ASL 5:30-7:00pm

Intro to ASL 5:30-7:00pm

Wednesday's Schedule:

Advanced ASL 5:30-7:00pm

1067 East Tabernacle #10 St. George

Cedar City Location

Tuesday's Schedule:

Intro ASL 5-6:30pm

Advanced ASL 6:45-8:15pm

Thursday Schedule:

Beginning ASL 5:00-8:30PM

303 North 100 East Cedar City

For more info please call 435-673-8974

Medical Interpreting: Oncology 101

Terp Time Workshop

Free to Attend (3 CEU/CEH)

January 31st, 2015 9:am-12pm

RSVP 435-619-6300



Hearing Aids: The First 30 Days

January 9,16,23,30th,2014

2:00-3:00pm

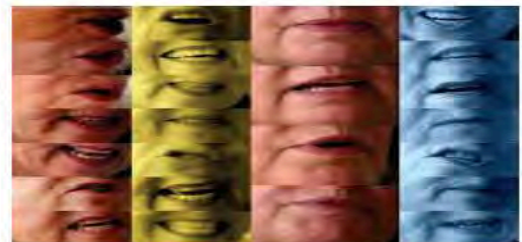
For more info please contact Peggy Thomson
435-628-5368 or pgarrison@utah.gov



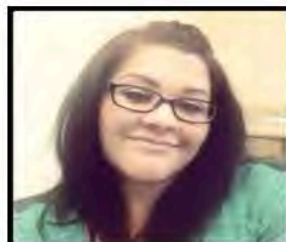
Learn to Lip Read

Every Tuesday, 10:00-11:00 AM
Starting on Jan. 9th for 8 weeks.

For more info please contact Peggy Thomson
435-628-5368 or pgarrison@utah.gov



ONE MORE... WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER!



Hi everyone!!! I am Cheri Mills one of the newbies. I just started as a Case Manager at the Sanderson Center. My responsibilities as a case manager are to assist my clients with reading and understanding documents, forms, and letters, applying for various programs, and advocating with my client for his or her needs. I am also Certified Social Worker which means I can also provide counseling services. I lived in California when I was younger then moved to Utah where I graduated from Spanish Fork High School. I attended Utah Valley University for four years and graduated with a B.A. in Deaf Studies. I then moved to Washington, D.C. to attend Gallaudet University for my Masters of Social Work. I am excited to be back in Utah with my beautiful mountains and look forward to working with everyone at the Sanderson Center!

Robert G Sanderson Community Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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Map To DSDHH

For information regarding deadlines and submission of
flyers, please contact us at: 801.657.5200

Did You Know?

You can also view this newsletter and other current
information online at:
WWW.DEAFSERVICES.UTAH.GOV

Mission Statement

*To provide opportunities and programs to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing which
enhance or maintain the skills necessary to fully participate in their employment, family and community.*